UNITED
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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1995/1055
22 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a response of the Government of Rwanda to the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated to the members of the Security Council as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manzi BAKURAMUTSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Rwanda to the United Nations

95-41470 (E) 221295 271295

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Annex

Response to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

In a press conference on 18 December 1995, the Secretary-General, when asked about the withdrawal of United Nations troops from Rwanda, is quoted as saying:

> "Concerning Rwanda, again the position is very clear. If a Government says that it does not want United Nations forces, you have two choices: either you pull out or you decide to maintain the forces on the basis of Chapter VII. Here is the problem. It is a very simple problem. The whole problem has now been postponed for a period of three months, but we know quite well that we have 2 million refugees in Goma and Bukavu and on the border of the United Republic of Tanzania. There is a crisis of confidence and the refugees do not want to return. Everybody is afraid that a new genocide may happen, this time not by the Hutu against the Tutsi but by the Tutsi against the Hutu."

My Government is seriously concerned by the Secretary-General's statement on the situation in Rwanda.

His statement has the impact of destroying the climate of confidence that the new Government of Rwanda had been working so hard - against all odds - to develop in a ravaged country. The Secretary-General's response can be interpreted as a lack of support for that Government even though his recent report seems to reflect a different position and portrays what was closer to the truth about developments inside Rwanda.

The first concern is his reference to the potential for the occurrence of another genocide in Rwanda. How can he suggest that one group of people in Rwanda has the potential to plan another genocide when that group has not been able to recover from repeated massacres and the worst genocide this century - especially since that group has received minimal support from the international community to help it to recover from the trauma of that crime? The impact of this statement undermines the Government of Rwanda by suggesting that there would be another genocide of Tutsi against Hutu.

The genocide in Rwanda was State-planned and State-sponsored. The new Government of Rwanda has demonstrated to the world that it has not established a State policy of revenge. Instead, it has pursued a policy of bringing the accused to justice. It has not killed the accused; it has imprisoned them as an interim measure as part of its policy to stop the cycle of impunity.

One month ago, the Government of Rwanda organized an international conference on the genocide in Rwanda. The purpose of the conference was to analyse what had occurred in Rwanda and to prevent the recurrence of that crime against humanity in Rwanda. The present Government's policies will never allow another genocide.

Our second concern is the Secretary-General's perception of the Security Council decision on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in resolution 1029 (1995). It was clear that that decision was a final renewal, not a postponement of the problem. Could it be his intention to recommend an extension of UNAMIR or propose the maintenance of UNAMIR on the basis of Chapter VII? How could that be contemplated in view of the sovereignty of Rwanda and the imperative to ensure the cooperation of the Government of Rwanda?

The third concern is the analysis of the situation in Rwanda by the Secretary-General which approximates the analysis used by the perpetrators of genocide and the countries that have supported them. That analysis promotes misinformation to the international community about such issues as the number of refugees - which was exaggerated in the press conference - and the true reason why the refugees are not returning. On the surface the defence of the refugees appears to be acceptable but there has been a tendency not to make a clear distinction between the innocent and those guilty of genocide. The tendency is to forget the reasons why some refugees would never want to return - because they have killed and they fear the hand of justice, while others do not return because of intimidation. Unless that distinction is made, the situation can never be properly analysed and can never be properly dealt with.

In that context, the Secretary-General continues to pursue a regional conference as a solution to the refugee crisis, which leads one to the question of what are the real objectives.

In general, there is a tendency to focus only on the refugees and forget the survivors and the victims of the horrible crime against humanity. There is strong silence on genocide.

One may wonder if the Secretary-General is intent on undermining the progress the Rwandan Government has made by making these public pronouncements, which could have the effect of destroying all such efforts by the Government of Rwanda.

The Secretary-General conceals the inability of the United Nations to assist the Government of Rwanda in addressing the problems faced by Rwanda, in particular the genocide, and the lack of success in stopping the intimidation in the refugee camps.

His statement has the potential to incite the refugees and cause them to question any advances made by the new broad-based Government in Rwanda, as well as to unsettle the Government's attempts at building a climate of peace and security.

Finally, the Secretariat's weak role in Rwanda is also reflected in slow progress in implementing the International Tribunal which was initially requested by the Government of Rwanda.

It would be mutually beneficial to the Secretariat, the United Nations as a whole and Rwanda if there was a more positive approach on the part of the United Nations and more cooperation with the present Government of Rwanda.

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22 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that I have decided to appoint Mr. Marc Faguy as my new Special Representative in Burundi. Mr. Faguy will be taking up his responsibilities at the beginning of January 1996.

Mr. Faguy entered the diplomatic service of Canada in 1962. From 1979 to 1982, he served as High Commissioner of Canada in Ghana and Ambassador of Canada in Togo, Benin and Liberia. From 1984 to 1987, he represented his country in Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic. Mr. Faguy will be replacing Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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LETTER DATED 22 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 20 December 1995 (S/1995/1056) concerning the appointment of Mr. Marc Faguy as your new Special Representative in Burundi has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They agree with the decision contained in your letter.

(Signed) Sergei LAVROV
President of the Security Council

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 60
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 21 December 1995 from the Permanent Representatives of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the press release issued on 10 December 1995 at the conclusion of the State visit by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman, King of Cambodia, and Her Majesty Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk to the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 7 to 10 December 1995.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of the press release circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 60, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alounkèo KITTIKHOUN
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations

(Signed) H.R.H. Prince SISOWATH Sirirath
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations

ANNEX

Press release dated 10 December 1995 at the conclusion of the State visit by His Majesty the King of Cambodia and Her Majesty the Queen to the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 7 to 10 December 1995

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Madame Phoumsavanh, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman, King of Cambodia, and Her Majesty Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk conducted, from 7 to 10 December 1995, a State visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

2. His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman, Her Majesty the Queen and the high-level delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia were welcomed at Wattay airport by His Excellency Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh and Madame Phoumsavanh, the members of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly, the members of the Government, senior army and police officers, officials and representatives of the population of the capital, Vientiane.

3. His Excellency the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Madame Phoumsavanh offered a State banquet at the hotel of the National Assembly in honour of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen of Cambodia.

4. His Excellency Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Madame Phoumsavanh had a discussion with His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman and Her Majesty Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, in the course of which they expressed their profound satisfaction at having the great honour of welcoming His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman, King of Cambodia, a close and respected friend of the Lao People, and Her Majesty the Queen, as well as the high-level Cambodian delegates.

During this discussion, which took place in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, the two heads of State unanimously noted that, following the State visit conducted to the Kingdom of Cambodia by His Excellency Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh and Madame Phoumsavanh in June 1995, the long-standing relationships of traditional friendship existing between the Lao and Cambodian peoples, as well as cooperation between the two countries, had been expanded and strengthened in a number of areas.

On the present occasion, the two Heads of State welcome the results of the work accomplished by the Lao-Cambodian and Cambodia-Lao joint cooperation commissions, thus encouraging the exchange of delegations at various levels and giving new impetus to cooperation between the two countries in the areas of agriculture and forests, culture and sport. They take pleasure in the adoption by the two countries' joint border commissions of the principles and procedures for a technical settlement of the border in conformity with their common will.

In this discussion, the two Heads of State expressed their pride at noting that the good-neighbourly relations which have existed throughout history

between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia are fraternal, candid and sincere, and full of a spirit of mutual assistance.

The two Heads of State firmly underlined that the maintenance and development of relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries advance the interests of the two peoples, thus contributing to the cause of peace, stability and cooperation in this region and in the world.

On the occasion of this visit, His Excellency Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh expressed his great satisfaction at and high opinion of the assiduous and tireless efforts of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman, father of the Cambodian nation, aimed at securing national reconciliation in Cambodia and at promoting the well-being of the people and the progress and prosperity of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman warmly welcomed the achievements and the ongoing and substantial progress attained in the area of national construction and building of socialism in the Lao People's Democratic Republic under the wise leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

5. His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman and Her Majesty the Queen of Cambodia received in audience at the Hô Khum palace His Excellency Mr. Khamtuy Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Madame Siphandone, who subsequently accompanied them on a pilgrimage to Phra That Luang in Vientiane. On that occasion, their Majesties offered the venerable President of the Union of Lao Buddhists a statue of the Buddha designed to be preciously conserved in a pagoda for veneration by the Lao people.

6. His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman and Her Majesty the Queen also received in audience at the Hô Khum palace His Excellency Mr. Samane Vignaket, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Madame Vignaket.

Their Majesties also successively received in audience the members of the Lao-Cambodian Friendship Association, which is led by the President of the Association, to the Khmer nationals living in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and to members of the family of the late Mom Munivanh.

7. During their stay in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman and Her Majesty the Queen, as well as the members of the high-level Cambodian delegation, laid a floral tribute on the Monument of the Unknown Soldier, and visited historic sites, handicraft workshops and a number of cultural parks in Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

8. The two High Parties expressed their satisfaction at the emergence of a trend towards peace, stability, friendship and cooperation between the nations of south-east Asia. They reaffirmed their will to promote and expand their good-neighbourly relations and to cooperate with all countries of the region on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

9. The two heads of State welcome the signature by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia of the Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance, which augurs well for the present historic visit.

10. The two High Parties greatly appreciated the present State visit conducted by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman and Her Majesty the Queen to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and described it as a great event of historic scope, marking the ongoing development of the traditional relations of friendship and good cooperation between the two Lao and Cambodian peoples and nations.

11. His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Varman, King of Cambodia, and Her Majesty the Queen expressed to His Excellency Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavanh, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Madame Phoumsavanh, and to the Government and the heroic Lao people, their deep feelings of gratitude and affection for having maintained throughout this State visit a warm, ceremonious, lavish and unforgettable welcome bearing witness to the great friendship and generous hospitality towards them, as well as towards the high-level Cambodian delegation.

Vientiane